



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**



ARNOLD  
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GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: February 5, 2009

### **Agenda Item No. 12: Presentation of Select 2008 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Nine Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.**

**INTRODUCTION:** The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-eight (48) individual mining operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), twelve (12) San Francisco Bay dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for nine surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

### **MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:**

The 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's February 5, 2009, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration by the SMGB are as follows:

- Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), El Dorado County.
- Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), El Dorado County.
- Timm Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0006), El Dorado County.
- Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), El Dorado County.
- Snows Road Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), El Dorado County.
- Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin.
- Western Aggregates, Inc. (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), Yuba County.
- Knife River (formerly Baldwin) Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002), Yuba County.
- Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), Yuba County.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation is presented below.

### **Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), El Dorado County:**

The following on-going violations were noted:

- Over-excavation of the highwall has occurred in at least two locations.



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- Encroachment upon the established property line setback of 30 feet has occurred.
- The main ½-inch minus material stockpile exceeds the maximum height of 50 feet and lacks erosion control measures.
- No re-vegetation test plot program is currently established.
- No topsoil management program is currently established.
- Reclamation of the Greenstone Country Development parcel has not been completed.

The following required corrective measures were noted:

- Implement grade controls for the highwall and revise quarry cutslope configuration in an amended reclamation plan.
- Improve sediment erosion control and winterizing measures for the main ½-inch minus stockpile.
- Continue with soil erosion control efforts throughout the quarry.
- Lower the main ½"-minus stockpile to a height no greater than 50 feet per criteria set forth in the 1997 Reclamation Plan and provide for material erosion preventive measures around the perimeter of this stockpile, or propose alternatives (e.g., construction of an intervening bench and adequate soil erosion and drainage control measures).
- Establish topsoil management program.
- Initiate a revegetation test plot program.
- Reclaim the Greenstone Country Development parcel.

Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), El Dorado County:

No violations were noted at time of inspection. However, the financial assurance amount requires re-evaluation and adjustment, as necessary, to reflect current site conditions, and current equipment, labor and fuel rates.

Timm Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0006), El Dorado County:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection; however, the financial assurance amount should be re-evaluated and adjusted, if appropriate, to account for current site conditions and current equipment, fuel, and labor rates.

Somerset Sand Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0009), El Dorado County:

One violation was noted at time of inspection regarding the lack of a current financial assurance cost estimate for the site.



Snows Road Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), El Dorado County:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection.

Big Gun Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-31-0013), City of Rocklin:

The following violations were noted at time of inspection:

- Annual slope stability inspections by a qualified professional have not been conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- Erosion control monitoring has not been performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- The existing financial assurance mechanism is deemed inadequate, and a revised financial assurance cost estimate has not been submitted to the SMGB during the past year.

The following corrective measures are offered:

- A slope stability inspection by a qualified professional should be conducted as required in Section 1.8 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- Erosion control monitoring should be performed by a qualified professional as required in Section 2.0 of the Management Plan included as part of the Interim Management Plan.
- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval, followed by an acceptable financial assurance mechanism.

Western Aggregates, Inc. (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), Yuba County:

No new or outstanding violations were noted at time of inspection. The stockpiled material that was noted as encroaching south of the approved Reclamation Plan boundary during the 2007 inspection had been completely removed at time of inspection.

The following recommendation is offered:

- The operator should consider implementing certain aspects of the proposed amended Reclamation Plan, dated April 2005, that is currently awaiting approval



pending a vested rights determination. Specific consideration should be given to following the proposed Phasing Plan as submitted with this amended Reclamation Plan (Figure 14 of April 2005 amended Reclamation Plan).

Knife River (formerly Baldwin) Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002), Yuba County:

One violation is noted regarding the need for an updated financial assurance for the subject site.

Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), Yuba County:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the nine 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained herewith to their respective local lead agency and each mine operator.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept nine 2008 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the nine 2008 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each mine operator. These surface mining operations are the Weber Creek Quarry, Diamond Quarry, Timm Mine, Somerset Sand Yard, Snows Road Quarry, Big Gun Quarry, Western Aggregates, Knife River Hallwood Plant, and Cal Sierra Development.*

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer